

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

Embrace capacity and referrals Winter 2018-19

Intended recipients of this notice

All clinical staff referring patients to Embrace Y&H Infant and Children's Transport Service.

What is the problem?

Embrace have significant staffing shortages over the coming months, with gaps at all levels on the medical rotas. This will impact upon both day time and night time cover.

What are Embrace doing in response?

All of the gaps are being advertised to internal and external locums, but weekdays are difficult to cover. For some nights this winter, Embrace will be able to provide only one night team to cover the whole of Yorkshire & Humber, which is a 50% reduction in capacity.

What can referring hospitals and clinicians do to help?

The normal referral pathways still apply.*

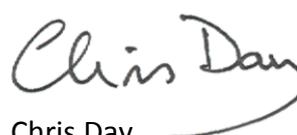
However, Embrace are receiving an increasing number of "just to let you know" calls regarding patients that do not require any clinical advice or transfer. This provides no benefit to the patient and has an impact upon the clinical staff at Embrace delivering a service to patients who do need their help and advice.

Please ensure that any acutely ill patient being referred to Embrace has first been reviewed in person by the local consultant responsible for their care, to make a decision as to whether referral to Embrace is needed. This consultant review is a crucial step in decision making. If it is then decided that a call to Embrace is needed, this should ideally be a consultant to consultant referral.

*If babies in neonatal units are potentially 'off pathway' it remains important for the usual liaison calls with the appropriate NIC team to take place. Embrace will facilitate these when needed.



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